

Today's media giants have tremendous power, and with that power comes a correlated responsibility to self-monitor and to be monitored from the outside. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is an abuse of power and a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the company's profit margin and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something churned out in a distant region, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. Also, anything labeled by the media as "news" must be truly that.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to be more rigorous. Thank you.